

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 00647 261157Z

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SUBJECT: THREE KEY RPP CABINET MINISTRIES: BIO INFO

REF: ANKARA 646

1. FOLLOWING ARE ABBREVIATED BIO DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE KEY RPP
MINISTERS IN THE NEWLY-FORMED ECEVIT GOVERNMENT WITH WHOM
THE USG WILL BE DOING BUSINESS AT AN EARLY STAGE:

A. FOREIGN MINISTER - PROFESSOR TURAN GUNES HAS LONG
BEEN ONE OF ECEVIT'S CLOSEST CONFIDANTS, A MEMBER OF THE LATTER'S
PERSONAL BRAIN TRUST IN THE LATE 60'S, AND ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS
OF THE "NEW MOVEMENT" IN THE PARTY. BORN IN 1922, GUNES
RECEIVED A LAW EDUCATION, INCLUDING A PH.D. FROM THE SORBONNE
IN 1951. (HIS THESIS WAS TITLED: THE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT
SYSTEM AND POLITICAL PARTIES.) HE ENTERED POLITICS IN 1954,
BEING ELECTED DEMOCRAT PARTY DEPUTY FROM KOCAELI, BUT
WITHIN ONE YEAR HAD JOINED A GROUP OF DEPUTIES IN OPPOSITION
TO MENDRES AND RESIGNED IN 1956. HE THEN BECAME A FOUNDING
MEMBER OF THE SHORT-LIVED FREEDOM PARTY. GUNES WAS AN
RPP QUOTA MEMBER OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FORMED AFTER
THE COUP THAT DEPOSED MENDERES AND WAS LATER A LEADING
PARTICIPANT IN THE DRAFTING OF THE 1961 CONSTITUTION. DEFEATED
AS AN RPP CANDIDATE IN THE 1961 ELECTIONS, HE RESUMED HIS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 00647 261157Z

ACADEMIC CAREER AT ANKARA UNIVERSITY WHILE WORKING CLOSELY

WITHIN RPP ORGANIZATIONAL CIRCLES. AFTER ECEVIT TOOK OVER FROM INONU AS PARTY LEADER, GUNES RESIGNED FROM THE UNIVERSITY AND BECAME ASSISTANT SEC GEN OF THE PARTY. HE TOLD US AT THE TIME HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A POLITICIAN FIRST, AND A PROFESSOR SECOND. HE RESENTS CRITICISM THAT HE IS ONLY A THING-TANK OPERATOR.

GUNES SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH AND HAS TRAVELED WIDELY IN EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA. WHILE A DP DEPUTY IN THE 50'S, HE BECAME A DELEGATE TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, AND AT ONE TIME SERVED A SUMMER IN ICELAND UNDER COUNCIL OF EUROPE AUSPICES TRYING TO RESOLVE THAT COUNTRY'S DISPUTE WITH THE UK.

INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE, AND A HARD WORKER, GUNES IS BELIEVED TO BELONG TO THE MIDDLE-LEFT SECTOR OF HIS PARTY, AND REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN RELATIVELY MORE INTERESTED IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THEN IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AT LEAST IN RECENT YEARS; HOWEVER, GUNES HAS BEEN QUOTED FREQUENTLY AS SAYING HE WANTS TO REORGANIZE AND SHAKE UP THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IN OUR OPINION, A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION, OR ITS EQUIVALENT, WOULD HAVE BEEN THE POSITION GUNES WOULD HAVE PREFERRED; HOWEVER, THE CONCESSIONS GIVEN TO NSP LEADER ERBAKAN AS REGARDS ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE CABINET FORMATION MAY HAVE FROZEN OUT GUNES.

GUNES HAS BEEN OPEN, FRANK, AND FRIENDLY TO INDIVIDUAL EMBASSY OFFICERS THROUGH THE LAST TEN YEARS, BUT HE HAS NOT LEFT A CLEAR IMPRESSION OF HIS VIEWS ON FOREIGN POLICY, IN CONTRAST TO HIS VIEWS ON DOMESTIC POLICIES, ABOUT WHICH HE HAS BEEN ARTICULATE AND OUTSPOKEN.

B. MINISTER OF FINANCE - DENIZ BAYKAL, HAVING JUST BEEN ELECTED AN RPP DEPUTY IN THE OCTOBER 1973 ELECTIONS, WAS INTRODUCED TO US A FEW DAYS LATER BY A CLOSE CONFIDANT OF ECEVIT'S AS ONE OF THE PARTY'S "REAL COMERS". IN JANUARY HE WAS ASSIGNED PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATING THE COALITION AGREEMENT WITH THE NSP, AND THE PRESS LIKENED HIM TO ANOTHER KISSINGER. APPOINTMENT TO THE POWERFUL AND PRESTIGIOUS FINANCE MINISTRY IS AN IMPRESSIVE TRIBUNE. BORN IN ANTALYA IN 1938, HE RECEIVED A LAW EDUCATION AT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANKARA 00647 261157Z

ANKARA UNIVERSITY AND TAUGHT CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. HE RECEIVED A PH. D. IN 1963 AND SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK GRADUATE WORK AT COLUMBIA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (BERKELEY). HE FIRST MET ECEVIT IN 1970 AND, FOLLOWING MILITARY SERVICE IN 1970-71, HE RENEWED HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH ECEVIT AND BEGAN WORKING CLOSELY IN THE PARTY MACHINERY. HE HELPED DRAFT THE 1973 PARTY PLATFORM. HE REFUSED TO TAKE AN EASILY-WON CENTRAL QUOTA SLOT IN THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS AND INSISTED

ON CAMPAIGNING DIRECTLY FOR HIS SEAT, WHICH HE WON HANDILY. BAYKAL SPEAKS VERY GOOD ENGLISH AND STRIKES US, ON THE BASIS OF ONLY A FEW TALKS WITH HIM SINCE OCTOBER, AS FRIENDLY TO THE US, SELF-CONFIDENT BUT NOT COCKY, EXTREMELY SERIOUS IN TEMPERAMENT, INTELLIGENT AND OPEN-MINDED AS TO IDEAS (HE TOLD US ON ONE OCCASION HE THOUGHT A JP-RPP COALITION COULD AT LEAST BE ATTEMPTED, IF OTHER COALITION EFFORTS FAILED).

C. MINISTER OF DEFENSE - HASAN ISIK. A BIO REPORT WAS SENT IN NOVEMBER 1974 (ANKARA A-201) WHEN WE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT HE WOULD BE FOREIGN MINISTER IN ANY RPP-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT. IN JANUARY, HOWEVER, WHEN HE WAS SELECTED AS AN RPP DELEGATE TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, MANY POLITICAL OBSERVERS REGARDED THIS AS A SIGNAL THAT SOMEONE ELSE WOULD HAVE THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO. ONE CURIOUS ARGUMENT AGAINST ISIK WAS THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1965, AND THAT HIS MANY FRIENDS IN THE MINISTRY WOULD PREVENT HIM FROM HOUSE-CLEANING. FURTHERMORE, SOME ARGUED THAT THE FACT THAT ISIK HAD DEPARTED HIS POST AS AMBASSADOR IN PARIS IN PROTEST OVER AN ARMENIAN MONUMENT, AN ISSUE THAT STILL HAS NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED TO TURKEY'S SATISFACTION, MIGHT MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO RESUME A MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANCE BY SENDING AN AMBASSADOR. ALTHOUGH THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN RATHER UNIMPORTANT, BECAUSE OF THE DOMINANT ROLE OF THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF, THIS MINISTRY MAY BE MORE IMPORTANT THIS YEAR BECAUSE: (A) GREATER PUBLIC QUESTIONING OF TURKEY'S DEFENSE BUDGET HAS BEEN EMERGING; AND (B) THE COALITION PROTOCOL HAS SOFTLY CRITICIZED THE PRESENT UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING SYSTEM AND HAS PROPOSED HAVING YOUNG MEN SERVE IN PUBLIC SERVICES AS WELL AS IN THE MILITARY TO A GREATER DEGREE THAN HERETOFORE.

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PAGE 04 ANKARA 00647 261157Z

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